

Portland Harbor TCT Meeting  
EPA Region 10 Portland, OR Operations Office  
October 29, 2014

Attendees:

- Deb Yamamoto (EPA)
- Kristine Koch (EPA)
- Sean Sheldrake (EPA)
- Elizabeth Allen (EPA)
- Rich Muza (EPA)
- Kay Morrison (EPA - phone)
- Tom Gainer (DEQ - phone)
- Matt McClincy (DEQ - phone)
- Rose Longoria (Yakama)
- Kristen Callahan (Ridolfi – Yakama - phone)
- Gail Fricano/Rita Cabrow (5 tribes - phone)
- Julie Weis (Siletz Tribe attorney - phone)
- Erin Madden (Nez Perce - phone)
- Todd King (CDM Smith - phone)
- Eric Blischke (CDM Smith)
- Scott Coffey (CDM Smith)
- Marianne MacDonald (CDM Smith)

Meeting Opened at 0912 by Deb Yamamoto.

Overview of EPA Perspective and Presentation of Changes at EPA:

Budgets shrinking for EPA. Regionally EPA is down 100 staff over the past year and not backfilling, exception are critical projects.

Portland Harbor, highest importance for Region 10; EPA committed to the cleanup at Portland Harbor.

Deb announces her retirement; EPA will be backfilling Deb's position.

A position has been advertised for another RPM based out of Portland or Seattle. Unclear whether or not that person will be involved in PH, it will depend on the skill set of the person hired.

EPA has heard concerns over RPMs and is taking this seriously. Meeting today is to discuss this.

EPA committing more resources to Kristine and Sean in assisting with completion of the FS and getting to the ROD; Hiring a Facilitator (introduces Marianne MacDonald) to ensure communication

is occurring and productive at meetings; also EPA will have an internal facilitator who will focus on running the meeting so Kristine and Sean may focus on substantive PM issues.

Sean statements: EPA depends on the TCT group to put together a meaningful plan; The current environment has been a bit stressful and wants to make sure that the TCT group is aware they are valued. Want input from this group of valued partners to come to the right outcomes for the project.

Rose: points out political pressures; EPA has done a good job at pushing back on this. Do we see this changing? Deb: Progress has been made in making sure Headquarters and Region 10 are communicating and handling political issues in the Region.

Kristine Koch presents approach for the meeting. Goal is to have an open dialog and hear from the partners. Wants to learn what the group feels is going well and why; what isn't going well and why; and, what can be done differently to make more effective progress moving forward.

### **Summary of Feedback**

#### What is working well?

- Have gone through 7 of 10 chapters without a dispute.
- EPA has stood ground and showed their commitment to an environmentally sound cleanup.
- Have had meetings to bring TCT up to speed.
- EPA staff are very responsive.
- Able to comfortably speak with EPA staff, which provides a good foundation for the project.
- Feedback from TCT and MOU Partners is good.

#### What is not working well?

- There are long time periods without status updates and it's hard to catch up when progress meetings are held.
- More discussion time is needed versus formal written comments.
- The schedule is fast and it's taking a long time to get to the Record of Decision.
- When LWG prepares summaries that don't represent the TCT perspective they aren't challenged.
- Lack of clarity of who is in charge from EPA upper management. Appears to be conciliatory to LWG.
- FS products have been shared with LWG without DEQ having adequate ability to review and provide input.
- The dynamics of the TCT meetings has changed from discussions to status updates.
- Discussions take place in the background, and in disjointed conversations, instead of as a group.
- No dialog on calls about written comments.
- Less engagement from the TCT members, likely due to time pressures.
- LWG's message is more prominent publicly than EPA's.
- EPA rewrite of FS had impact on dynamics of the project.

### What should be done differently?

- More frequent intervals of information sharing to make it easier to consume and discuss.
- Provide agendas and briefings prior to meetings so members can come prepared.
- Provide more formal meeting minutes.
- EPA should take a more direct position of being in charge of the project.
- Have MOU partners participate in EPA/LWG executive meetings to provide a more balanced perspective.
- Need more member engagement.
- TCT members should highlight areas where they want to have more insight / discussion.
- TCT calls/meetings should:
  - Summarize issues and positions
  - Get partner feedback on summary
  - Include more discussion of strategy
- Have some follow up on written comments to discuss why/how some comments were or weren't addressed.
  - EPA should summarize themes of comments. Don't need to review all.
- Transition the role of TCT to focus more on strategic perspective. This would include messaging to the public and framing outcomes and proposed plans.
- Clarify EPA messaging and make EPA's position more clear to TCT and MOU partners.
  - EPA has a community message, and this should be shared with partners.
- If there is disagreement with LWG position, this should be communicated, understanding that collaboration and professional respect are needed.
- Have meetings twice a month.
  - One meeting per month in person.
    - Pair in person meetings with CAG meetings and other technical meetings.
  - One meeting by phone.
  - Provide background material and agenda a week in advance to allow people to come prepared for discussions.
  - Keep discussions at a higher level, not about technical details.